(c) whether Government have any serious consultation in the matter to advise the TV media; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that as far as Doordarshan is concerned, children's programmes ranging from educational to entertainment from part of the regular programme schedule of its national and regional channels. Some such programmes are Meri Baat, Terra Quiz, Kar Bhala Soch Bhala, Bachon Ki Adalat, Aisa Hi Hoat Hai and Muthi Mein Science etc.

As regards programmes on private TV channels, their treatment of issues varies and is not subject to any control by the Government as long as they adhere to the Programme Code prescribed in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. No specific complaints have been received .

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present.

New Doordarshan Kendras Bihar

†1705. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of AIR and Doordarshan Kendras in Bihar is less compared to the other States;

(b) whether it is a fact that a proposal is under consideration of Government for setting up new Kendras of Doordarshan is Bihar and enhancing the capacity of Doordarshan Kendras at Patna and Muzzafarpur;

(c) whether it is a fact that only two studios of Doordarshan, 41 transmitters and just 05 stations are operational in Bihar at present which is relatively much less in term of its population and its being a State on Indo-Nepal border; and

(d) if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. Bihar has 5 Radio transmitters at Patna, Sasaram, Purnea, Bhagalpur and Darbhanga which covers

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

100 per cent of the State both by area and population as against the national coverage of 91.42% by area and 99.13% by population. On Doordarshan side, Doordarshan Kendras in Bihar are equal to or more than those in 26 States/UTs. In 9 States/UTs, number of DDK are more than that in Bihar.

(b) There is no scheme to set up any new Doordarshan Kendra in Bihar. DDK, Patna has been made fully digital and DDK, Muzaffarpur partially digital. Additional equipment and facilities are envisaged to be provided during the 10th Plan for these to Kendras.

(c) and (d) Two Doordarshan Kendras and 42 TV (HPTs/LPTs/ VLPTs) transmitters are functioning in Bihar. TV coverage is estimated to be available to about 93.4% population of Bihar. For further expansion, LPT Saharsa is under replacement by HPT. Multi Channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free to air DAH service "DD Direct Plus" is available in the entire country including Bihar.

Competition with new channels

1706. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have overcome the competition from new channels in terms of coverage in cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, in what manner his Ministry would overcome such a competition?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati have informed that in terms of coverage, Doordarshan's DD 1 and DD News Channels continue to be at the top of all the TV Channels watched in the country.

PM's assurance to INS

1707. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any analysis about the assurance given by PM to INS in solving major newspapers industries issues; and